



By the King.

A Proclamation for the vtter abolishing of  
the making of Starch of any stufte whatsoeuer,  
within the Realme of England, and dominion of Wales.



Hereas heretofore many shewes and pre-  
tences haue bene made from time to time, that Starch might and  
should be made of cleane Branne, or of musty, vnfauoury and vn-  
holsome Corne vnfit for mans food, or of some rootes or other  
things that were not of the nature of food; By meanes whereof,  
Licence and Toleration hath sometimes bene giuen for the ma-  
king of the same within this Kingdome, both in our owne time,  
and in the time of the late Queene Elizabeth, of famous memorie de-

ceased, And benefit and commoditie hath and might still haue redounded vnto Us, our heires  
and successours, by the voluntary contributions of the makers of Starch within our  
Realmes, if we would haue continued the same Toleration: But it hath appeared vnto Us  
by Certificats from diuers parts of this our Realme, especially in the late times of Dearth  
and scarcitie of Corne, that such makers of Starch did waste and consume wheat, Deale,  
flower, and other like stufte, good and wholesome for the sustenance of our louing Subiects,  
in great abundance: And it is still manifest by dayly experience, that though perhaps they  
use sometimes a little cleane Branne or vnwholesome Corne, yet it turnes all but to deceipt,  
and is used but as a colour, whilst they make indeed the great masse of their Starch of good  
and perfect wheat. Therefore, as soone as wee were certainly informed that this new,  
vaine, superfluous and hurtfull practise of Starch making could not be continued in this our  
Realme, without the intolerable losse and waste of so necessary a sustenance of life, as is  
wheat (which in the times of greatest plentie is by a prouident Prince to be preserved, as well  
for the present vse, as for prouision against Dearth and scarcitie, which is euer to be feared, and  
whereof we haue had so late and grievous experience.)



103  
And where we were further also informed by like Certificats, that the making of Starch  
brought with it an other effect of as ill consequence as the former, by infecting the aire with a  
vapor sent for a great distance round about the places where the same was made, So as  
was conceived to be no small cause of the breeding and nourishing of the plague, which hath  
long afflicted this our Realme. When these things (as we have said) appeared vnto Us,  
we did take it to be a necessary care and duty belonging vnto Us and our Crowne, to re-  
medie so great an enormitie, being apparantly *malum in se*. And therefore we did with all con-  
sistent speed by our Proclamation, bearing date the tenth day of January last, straitly charge  
and command all maner of persons whatsoeuer, Licenced or vn-Licenced, that they should  
from and after certaine times now past, forbear to make any Starch within this our Realme  
of wheat, Rubbles of wheat, Pollard, Branne, or any other stufte or stufes whatsoeuer, as  
the said Proclamation may appeare. Neuerthelesse, we are certainly informed, That  
there are in LONDON, and the Suburbs thereof, and in diuers other parts of this our  
Realme, sundry persons that still continue the making of Starch in high contempt of Us, and  
of our said last Proclamation: Which their contempts (though they can no way bee excused) yet  
we, (that desire by all meanes, as well to guide and direct our Subiects to their due obedience,  
as to require the same at their hands,) haue thought fit in one onely direct and plain Pro-  
clamation, to expresse our Selfe in this behalfe, That neither by varietie of Proclamations,  
nor by Tolerations or distinctions of persons or times any pretence of ignorance, doubtfull  
understanding, or other excuse may bee made, either by the offendours themselves, or by the  
Magistrates of the Peace, or other Officers that are to looke to the execution of our Proclamation  
in this behalfe. And therefore hauing fully resolved, that it is very requisite (for the causes  
before mentioned, and to take away all shifts and euasions whatsoeuer) absolutely to sup-  
presse and banish the making of Starch in all places of this our Realme of England, and do-  
minion of Wales wheresoeuer, as well of wheat, Flowre, Meale, rubbles of wheat and Bran,  
or roots or any other stufte whatsoeuer:

Wee doe now once againe signifie Our pleasure touching the same, to all our louing Sub-  
iects by this Our Proclamation, willing, and straitly charging and commanding all and  
maner of persons whatsoeuer, that they doe not at any time hereafter make, or cause to be  
made any maner of Starch, of any stufte whatsoeuer within this Our Realme and Domini-  
on. And further, that they nor any of them doe at any time hereafter, sell or vtter, or cause to  
be sold or vttered to any person or persons whatsoeuer, any such Starch so to be made within  
our said Realme or Dominion. And furthermore, forasmuch as it is found by experience,  
that a speciall and chiefe cause of the dayly contempts heretofore committed in this behalfe,  
haue bene occasioned as well by Grocers, Chandlers, and the like Retailors, as by other per-  
sons, who buy of the Makers very cheape, and thereof make great gaine, and for their gaine  
encourage and embolden the Makers and conueyors, (who being needy and meane persons  
are stirred with small profit, especially, when they are put in hope of escape or impunitie by per-  
sons of better condition,) Wee doe therefore hereby will and require, and straitly charge and  
command, not onely all and singuler Grocers, Chandlers, Retailors, and all maner of persons  
using the buying and selling & trading of Starch in any sort howsoeuer; but also al and singuler  
other our louing Subiects of what qualitie or condition soeuer, within our said Realme and  
Dominion: That they and euery of them doe hereafter vtterly forbear and refraine from  
buying or causing to be bought, either directly or indirectly, secretly or openly, any Starch what-



knowing the same to be made within our said Realme or Dominion, contrary to this  
our Will and royall pleasure hereby signified vnto them as aforesaid. And if any person  
whatsoever, shall doe or presume to doe any thing against this our Proclamation or  
thereof, wee doe hereby let them know that we are fully resolved, and doe intend to  
proceede against all & every such offendour and offendours with severitie as shall besit the great-  
ness of their contempts, in a matter so apparantly tending to the publique good and benefit of  
our common wealth. And wee doe further by these presents straitly charge and command  
singuler Justices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bailiffes, Constables, headboroughs  
and other our Officers and loving subiects whatsoever, vpon paine of our indignation and  
displeasure, That they and every of them within their severall precincts doe from time  
to time, and at all times hereafter carefully and diligently see, and take order that this our roy-  
all commandment be in all points fully and strictly obserued and obeyed, and that neither  
they nor any of them doe, or shall suffer any person or persons within their severall precincts to  
doe any thing contrary thereunto: but that they doe from time to time by all fit  
ways make search and inquirie, what person or persons shall offend against the tenour of  
this Proclamation in any point. And if they the said Justices of peace, Maiors, Bailiffes,  
or chiefe officers of Cities or Townes corporate, or any of them, shall finde or bee cer-  
tainly informed of any person or persons offending in any the points aforesaid, That in  
case they shall and do immediatly cause all and every such Offendour and Offendours of  
what qualitie or condition soever, to be apprehended and committed to prison to the common  
gaol of the Countie or place where they doe or shall inhabite, there to remaine till they shall  
become bound with sufficient suretie no more to offend against this our Proclamation  
or part thereof.

Given at Our Mannour of Woodstocke the 22. day of August, in the eight  
yeere of our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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A N N O 1610.